

F-4-28
Fox's Tavern
Middletown vicinity
Private

Ca. 1780-ca. 1899

Fox's Tavern is a two-story stone residence built about 1780 as a tavern on the Sharpsburg Road (now Marker, Bolivar, and Reno Monument Roads). The five-bay elevation has a center entrance with a 6-panel exterior door with heavy vertical battens on the interior. The east front room features a pass-through opening from the rear room where drinks were distributed to travelers. The house also has original mantelpieces, chair rails, and stair railings. The stairs are full-width to the fully floored attic, which was used as dormitory sleeping space. Under the rear wing of the house is a spring with a fieldstone surround and cooling troughs running into the enclosed cellar under the wing. Associated with the house's subsequent use as a private farm from about the 1830's is a frame bank barn and a stable or carriage house on the west side of Marker Road. The tavern was built by Frederick Fox, who was reported to have served George Washington on August 6, 1785 during a brief stop. Later sold to John Ringer, the tavern was a well-known stop in the first two decades of the 19th century, preceding the opening of the National Road (now U.S. Route 40A). The death of Ringer and the decline in passing travelers caused by increased use of the National Pike probably led to the tavern's conversion in the 1830's to a private residence.

F-4-28
Fox's Tavern
Middletown
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Agriculture
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Economic (Commercial & Industrial)
Transportation

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn
Commerce/Trade/restaurant/tavern

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Fox's Tavern; Ringer's Tavern

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2203 Marker Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Middletown ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mrs. Richard B. Rudy

street & number 203 Linden Avenue telephone no.: (301)663-9231

city, town Frederick state and zip code Md. 21701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1537

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 759

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Paul Brinkman/Anthony James Surveys of Frederick County #F-1117/#F-3-7

date C. 1968 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town Crownsville state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-28

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 4

Fox's Tavern is a circa 1780 stone dwelling of two stories with a 1-1/2 story stone rear wing with three contributing outbuildings consisting of a frame garden shed of about 1900-1920 and a frame bank barn and stable/carriage house of the last quarter of the 19th century. Two non-contributing modern outbuildings are also part of the property. The house, the garden shed, and one of the non-contributing buildings are located on the southeast side of Marker Road at the intersection of Bolivar Road about three miles west of Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland. The barn, stable and the other non-contributing outbuilding are located on the opposite side of Marker Road, the southwest corner of Marker and Bolivar Roads. The principal five-bay elevation of the house faces north toward Marker Road.

The house has two stories built of random fieldstone with a five-bay principal facade on the north. A one-story porch with Tuscan columns probably added in the last quarter of the 19th century extends across the north elevation. The entrance is in the center bay, with a 6-panel door under a 4-light transom. The windows are 6/6 in plain mortise and tenoned frames. The gable roof has interior end chimneys at the east and west elevations and the roof covering is composition material over wood shingles. The cornice is boxed. The east and west elevations have two bays each with square 2/2 attic windows and 6/6 windows on the lower floors. The rear wing has a raised basement level with an open section between the front part of the house and the base of the wing, built over at the main floor level. This open area contains a spring with a fieldstone surround. On the west side of the wing is a wide doorway which until very recently was an open passageway, but now has a vertical board door. Double doors at the basement level of the main part open into the open area around the spring. At the base of the rear wing is a trough which continues through the stone wall into the cellar of the wing where it extends the length of the cellar toward the south. The cellar also has a stone fireplace, although the floor and part of the walls are covered with concrete. The main floor of the wing has a corresponding fireplace opening at the south gable end.

The interior plan of the house has a wide central hall with a simple staircase rising to the attic. On the painted plaster walls are coat hooks and a tongue-and-groove wainscot and chair rail. The interior sides of the 6-panel doors at the north and south ends of the hall have heavy vertical battens, box locks, and full-width strap hinges. The door knobs are brown marbled porcelain. The floors in the main part of the house are early 20th century hardwood presumably covering the original flooring. In the east parlor of the double pile plan, the chair rail and wainscot continue. The door and window frames are simply molded, as is the mantelpiece. Between the interior wall and the chimney breast is an enclosed cupboard of vertical tongue-and-groove boards. Adjacent to the cupboard in the wall separating the front and rear rooms is a pass-through window opening, now closed off, where beverages were distributed to travelers. This is the principal architectural feature defining the original use of the house as a roadside tavern. The room at the rear of the parlor has similar window and door trim to the main parlor, but no particular defining feature. The west parlor also contains a simple

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-28

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1780-1833 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Fox's Tavern is an excellent example of a late 18th century tavern on a major transportation route from Baltimore to the Ohio River valley, known locally as the Sharpsburg Road (now Marker, Bolivar, and Reno Monument Roads), which preceded the opening of the National Road (now U.S. Route 40A). The building has been used as a residence since about the 1830's, but retains several features which separate the tavern form from the usual residential plan of the period. These are the pass-through opening in the main floor parlor where drink was served to travelers and the full-width staircase to the fully floored attic where travelers slept in dormitory fashion. In addition to these, the house has battened doors, original hardware, a surviving early 19th century lamp wall scone, original stair railings, air rails, and mantelpieces. The open configuration of the spring under the rear wing, which is usually enclosed in private residences, also suggests the frequent, sometimes heavy use of the spring by transients. Built about 1780 by Frederick Fox, who was reported to have served George Washington during a brief stop at the tavern on August 6, 1785, the tavern was sold to John Ringer in 1807. Ringer's name appears on the 1808 map of Frederick and Washington Counties by Charles Varle which identifies important travel stopover points on the main routes as well as towns, mills, and major property owners. The tavern became a private residence and farm presumably in the 1830's when sold by Ringer's widow to Vincent Sanner. The change was probably due equally to Ringer's death and the decline in travelers then using the National Pike. The bank barn, the stable, and the garden shed show the later use of the property as a typical agricultural complex during the rest of the 19th century, although other outbuildings may have existed and been demolished. Like most houses in the southern Middletown Valley, the house was used as a hospital during and after the Battles of South Mountain and Antietam in September 1862.

The tavern plan is also found in two other identified taverns in the Middletown Valley, the Beachley House (F-4-29) on the Old National Pike, built approximately 1800-1810, and Motter's Tavern (F-4-30), also on the Old National Pike, built about the same period. Motter's Tavern also appears on the 1808 Varle map. Both of these taverns have been used as private residences, with interior changes made over several periods, but the pass-through windows and the sleeping spaces in the attics remain constant. Motter's is currently a professional office and has had the most interior and exterior changes. The Beachley House is still residential, but may eventually become a Civil War battlefield interpretive center and museum. Fox's Tavern is the best documented of the three in terms of its original function, although detailed research on the other two remains to be done.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-28

Bond, Isaac, Map of Frederick County, 1858.
Land Records of Frederick County
Rudy, Mrs. Richard, telephone interview, Feb. 19, 1992 and historical summary
Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.
(Continued on separate sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acresQuadrangle name Middletown, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 2 acres centered on house, including barn and outbuildings on west side of Marker Road on Tax Map 54, Parcel 32

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date March 1992street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

7.1 Description (Continued)

mantelpiece, although an added partition wall to create a bathroom and laundry room was added probably in the late 19th or early 20th century. The interior of the rear wing had been recently damaged by fire and, at the date of the survey, was under repair. Modern paneling had been removed, revealing horse or hog hair plaster in the original wall surfaces. The main part of the house had only smoke damage, although the rear wing interior and the windows are being completely replaced.

The principal features of the upper floors are the two main rooms above the front rooms of the first floor and the full-width staircase continuing up to the attic, which is completely floored. This staircase and the open attic together comprise the second defining architectural feature of the tavern, showing the daily use of the attic as dormitory sleeping space for travelers. In the second floor rooms, the fireplace openings are very simple, only a shelf and an outlining molding. The two front rooms have chair rails and coat hooks and the west room has a lamp scone in the shape of an inverted "T". The original two rear rooms were altered in the early 20th century with the addition of closets.

Outbuildings:

Garden shed: This is a frame rectangular structure with board and batten siding and a corrugated metal gable roof. It was probably built in the last quarter of the 19th century, perhaps as a feed or tool shed, and is located southeast of the rear wing of the house.

Stable/carriage house: The frame stable and carriage house is located directly across Marker Road to the west of the house. Built in the last quarter of the 19th century, the rectangular building has both vertical and tongue-and-groove siding with a corrugated metal gable roof. On the north side of the stable are two double-doored openings near the northeast corner. Sliding vertical board doors cover the rest of the north elevation.

Barn: The frame bank barn is located west of the stable. The gable roof ridge runs north-south and the ramp is on the west side. The forebay extends over a lower level partially enclosed by concrete block, containing a milking parlor. The milk house is a concrete block extension on the south gable end. The upper structure of the barn has vertical siding and the roof is covered with standing seam metal. Built during the last quarter of the 19th century, the barn was altered for dairy operations probably during the 1930's.

Fox's Tavern
Frederick County

Survey No. F-4-28

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Valley Register, Middletown, Md., "George Washington Was Once Honored Guest at Old Tavern 3 Miles West of Middletown", 1932.

Varle, Charles, Map of Frederick and Washington County, 1808.

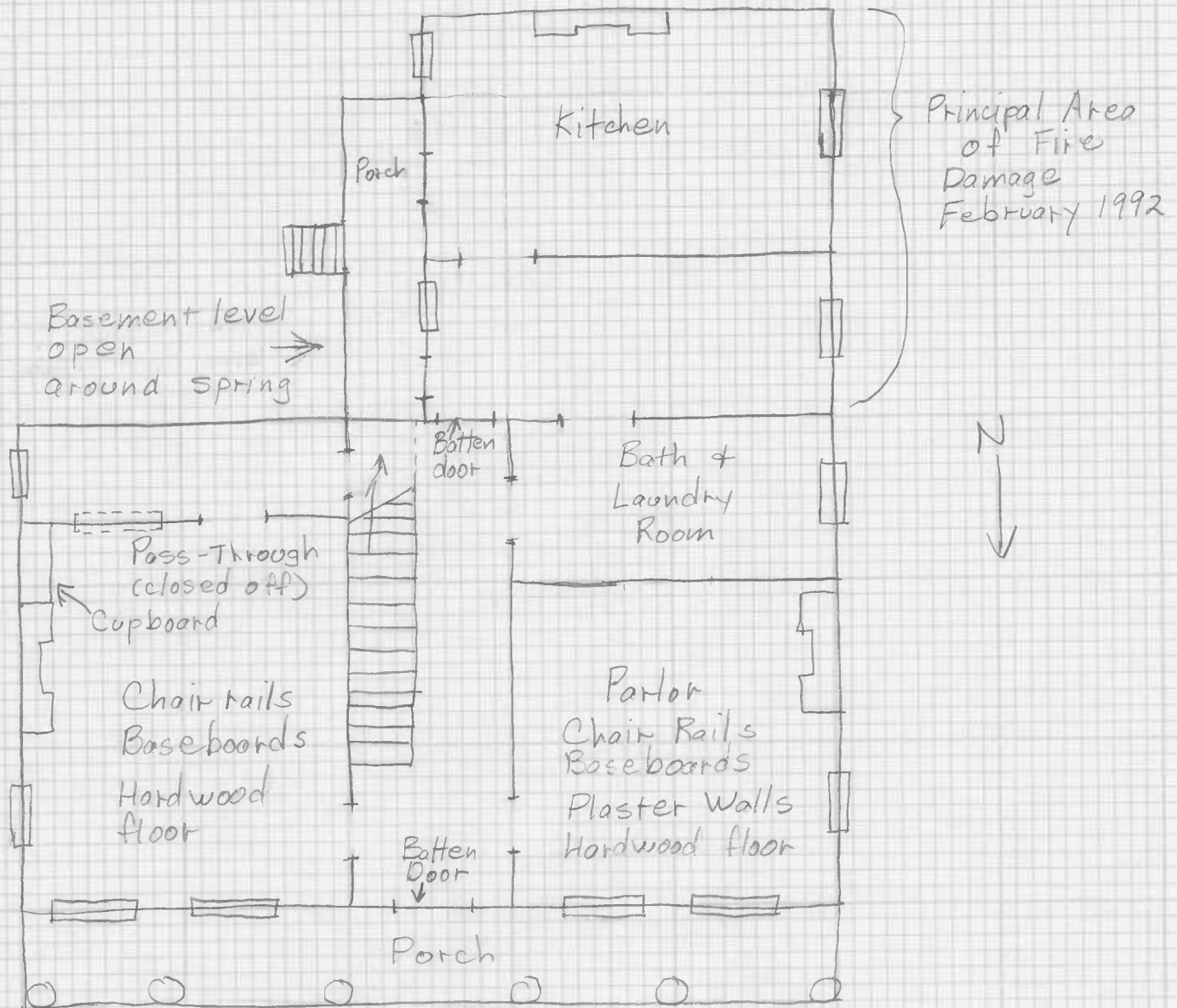
#69 Fox's Tavern 2203 Marker Rd.

LIBER/FO...O	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1537/759 11 Jan 89	Richard B. & Helen H. Reedy tenants in common	Richard & Helen Reedy husb. & wif.	161 A.		
605/469 25 Sept 58	Richard & Helen Reedy	Stanley F. Young (widower)	166 A.		
388/317 21 Aug 33	Stanley F. & Charlotte O.L. Young	H. Noel Haller & Mary Louise Haller	175 A.		
388/316 21 Aug 33	H. Noel Haller & Mary Louise Haller	Stanley F. & Charlotte O.L. Young			
324/321 2 Apr 18	Stanley F. Young	John H. Routzahn (widower)	175 A.		
AF 9/91 24 Apr 1884	John H. Routzahn	Simon D. Routzahn	192 A.	\$10,298.75	
TG 3/298 10 May 1875	Eli Routzahn	Silghman Hesspeiger, trustee	192 A.	\$9,625	
TG 2/61 17 Aug 1874	Silghman Hesspeiger	Samuel & Malinda Ausherman	(sale to clear debts) of Samuel Ausherman		

F-4-28

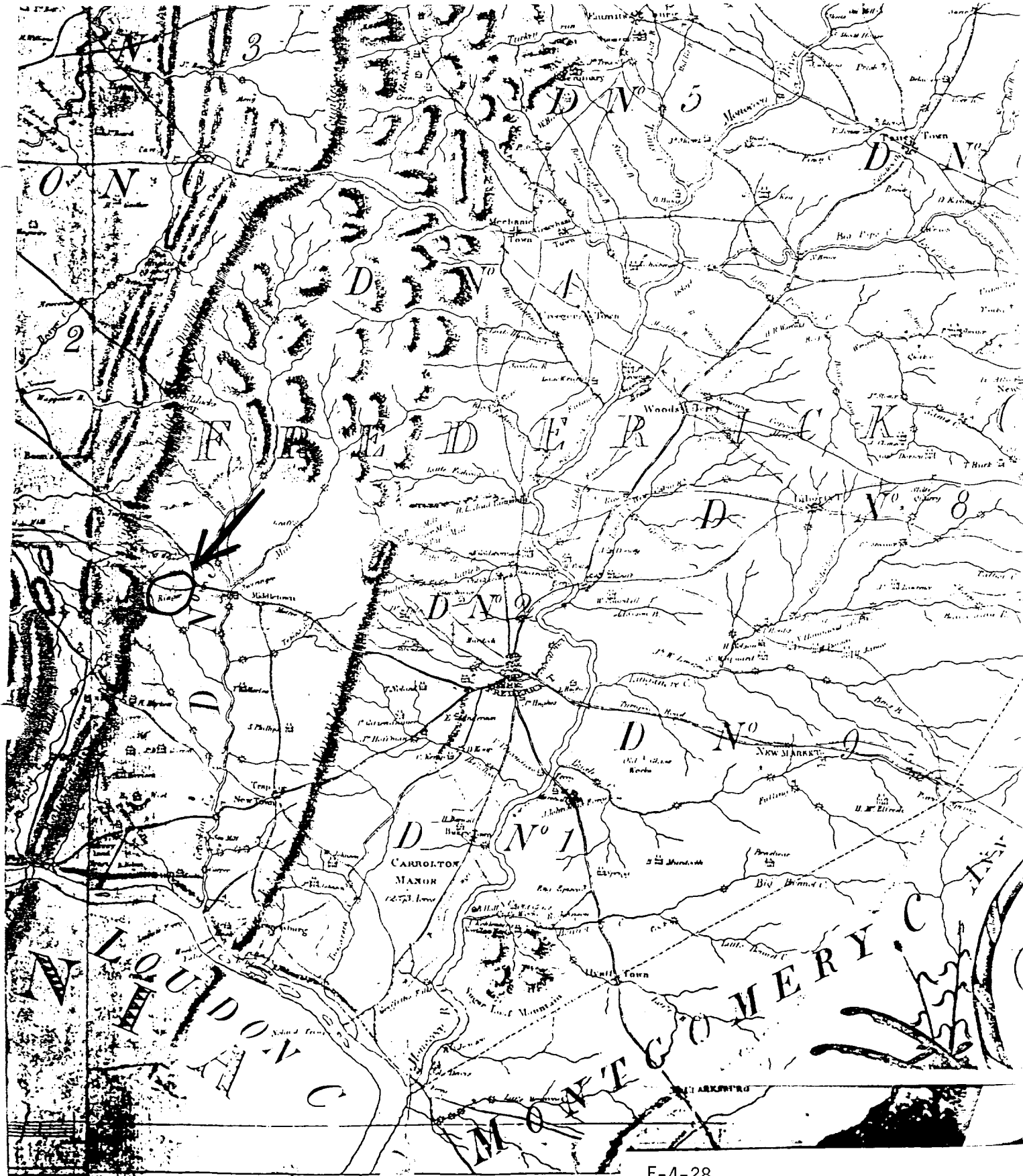
LIBER/FOLIO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
CM 1/582 1 Apr 1868	Samuel Aushman	Vincent & Susan Sanner	"Fiddler's Purchase" "Resurvey on Exchange" "Bubble" "Deepr Snag" (?) 194 a.	\$15,365.50	
1) JS 42/481 3 Apr 1833 15 May 4	Vincent Sanner	- wife of John Ringer Sidney Ringer & Jacob Everhart & sub.			
HS 6/44 29 Mar 1837 16 Dec	Vincent Sanner	George Rautzahn & sub.	121 1/2 a.		
1) WR 32/28 Sept. 1807 Oct 7	John Ringer of Washington Co.	Fredrick Fox	50 a. "O Hope It is Well Done" "Pigger All", "Turkey Foot" "Mouent Pleasant"	£ 300	

F-4-28

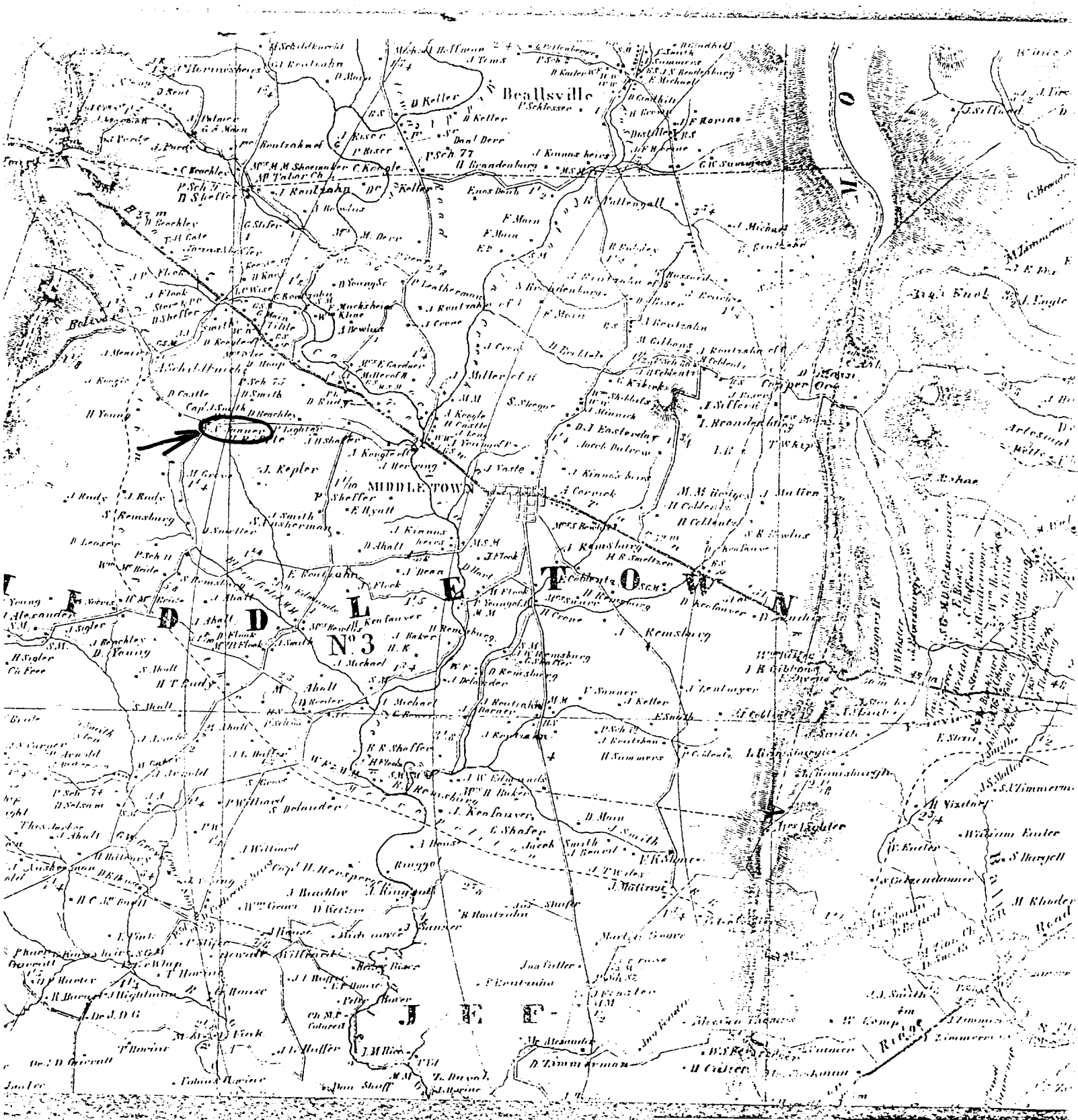


F-4-28
Fox's Tavern
Frederick County

Janet Davis
February 11, 1992
Not to Scale



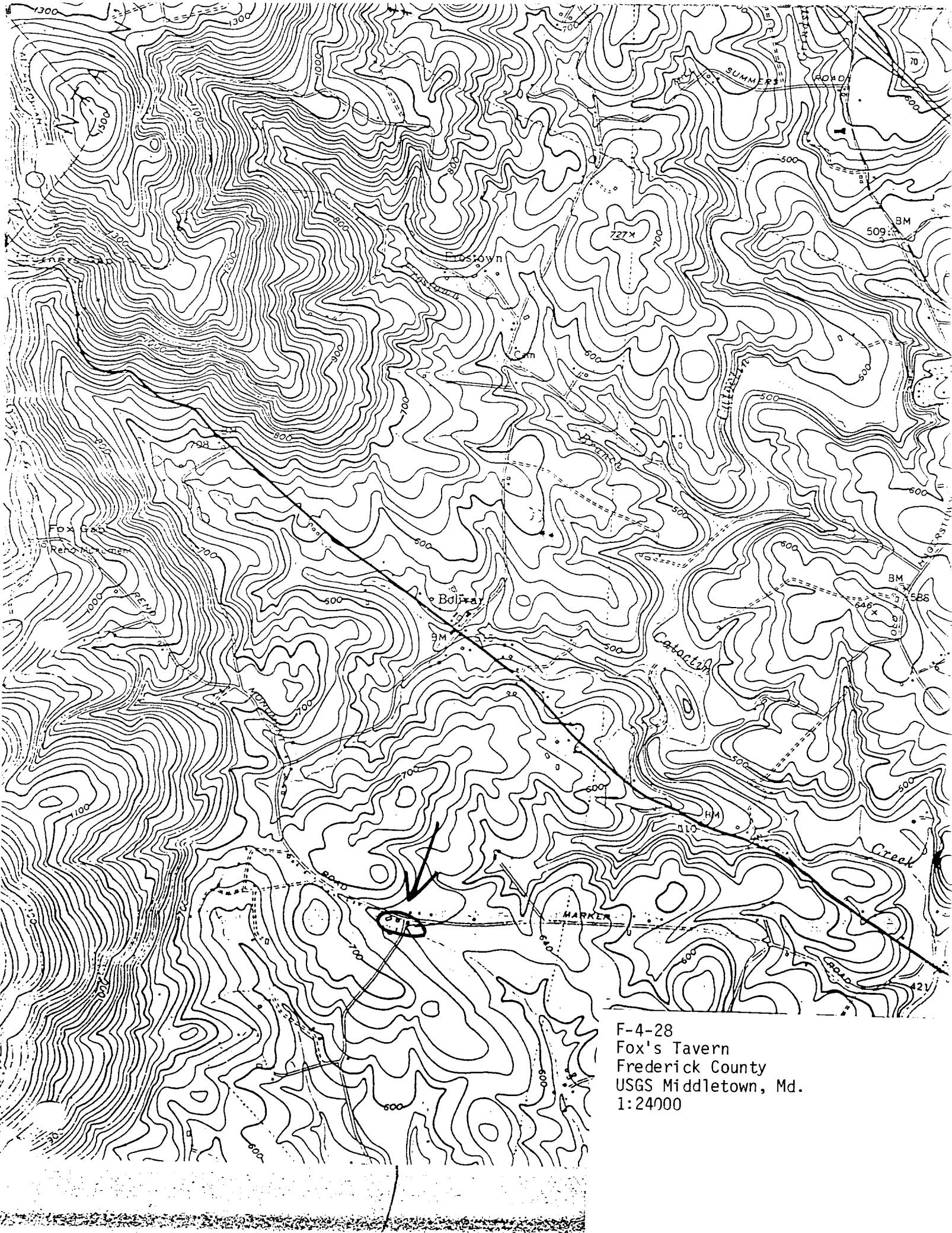
F-4-28
Fox's Tavern
Frederick County
Varle, Map of Frederick and
Washington Counties, 1808.



F-4-28
 Fox's Tavern
 Frederick County
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
 County, 1858.

Scale 1½ Inches to the Mile

F-4-28
Fox's Tavern
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873.



F-4-28
Fox's Tavern
Frederick County
USGS Middletown, Md.
1:24000



7-2-38

very large

Frederick county

Photo Janet Davis

July 1972

Long 2. 11. 1972. 11. 1972. 11. 1972. 11. 1972.

North elevation

1/3



F 4 22

2:28 to 3:00 PM

Epiphytic Count 1

Photo Jan + 1. m?

February 1992

Long, low, mid. SHR. 1000' 1100'

Epiphytic 1 covered 1.2m

P. 3



F-4-28

For's Tower

Frederick County

Photo: Tolet (L.A.)

February 1977

Low level ind. SHPO (Harrisonville, Md.)

First flight 1/13

3/3



F-4-28

For 3 Towers

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1992

Use: local 201-5412, Crownsville, MD

1st floor east room with pass-through open

4



F-4-28

Rev. S. T. ...

Frederick County

Photo - Janet Davis

February 1982

1000 ... St. P. ...

Second ...

3/8



F. 4-23

Leaves from

Fredrick County

Photo: T. J. & T. J.

February 1902

1 sq. loc. - Mid. E HPC. Crownsville, Md.

Spring 1902. From 50 ft.

6/8



Fig. 13

Long Point

Frederick County

Photo. Inst. Co.

February 1912

Long Point, Md. 14100. New York, Md.

Stable house from northwest corner

7/8



F-4-28

Fox's Tavern

Fred. Rich - my

mother-in-law's house

February 1, 1912

New York - 11/1 - 12. 12. 1911

12. 1. 1912. Northeast corner view

3/2